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## Our History

In 1990 the Division of Child Support (DCS) looked for ways to improve child support services in tribal communities. They hired staff to foster a government-to-government relationship with each tribe in Washington State and sought to negotiate child support agreements.

Program staff provided presentations to tribal councils, and training to state and tribal representatives. They organized conferences and workgroups, developed tribal-specific policies and negotiated intergovernmental child support agreements. This innovative approach received national recognition.

In 1997, building on the success of DCS's program, the Economic Services Administration (ESA) reorganized to create an expanded State Tribal Relations Unit (STRU). Their goal was to improve state tribal relations and policy consultation throughout ESA. The unit combined and unified tribal efforts among five ESA Divisions.

## Our Vision

STRU promotes and supports government-to-government relationships with Washington tribes, recognizing tribal sovereignty in the development and delivery of programs and services.

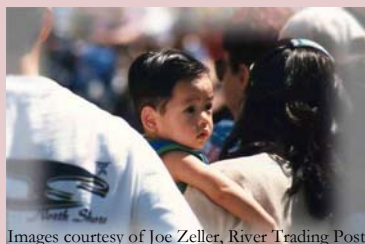
Through STRU's efforts and effective partnerships with tribal governments, tribal members and families will achieve the highest degree of self-sufficiency possible.

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## For More Information Contact:

### State Tribal Relations Unit

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Images courtesy of Joe Zeller, River Trading Post

## Visit Our Web Sites For:

Directories of ESA Tribal Liaisons  
Tribal TANF and Child Support resources  
Links to key websites and documents  
Other valuable resources

### DCS Tribal Relations Internet Web Site

[www.dshs.wa.gov/dcs/tribal](http://www.dshs.wa.gov/dcs/tribal)

### STRU Intranet Web Site

(for DSHS employees)  
<http://icsa.dshs.wa.gov/stru/>

*Economic Services Administration  
Office of the Assistant Secretary*

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# State Tribal Relations Unit



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***“Bringing about successful  
Child Support and TANF Programs  
for Washington State Tribes,  
through effective state tribal  
relationships, for the benefit of  
tribal families.”***

*-STRU Mission*

## ***Our Guiding Principles***

### **Tribal Sovereignty**

We recognize and value the sovereign status of tribes and will work with tribes on a government-to-government basis.

### **Partnership Building**

We strive to build partnerships and trust between the tribes and ESA Divisions. We believe that honesty and integrity are essential in all our transactions and communication.

### **Education & Training**

We strive to promote awareness and understanding of state tribal issues between tribes and ESA.

### **Policy Consultation**

We value effective and meaningful consultation between ESA and tribes regarding policy development and implementation.

### **Culturally Appropriate Services**

In all we do, we value and respect differences by supporting ESA in providing culturally appropriate services to tribes.



## **Key STRU Services for Tribes:**



- Outreach, technical assistance and training on child support, TANF, WorkFirst and other ESA services.
- Presentations to Tribal Councils about options for child support, TANF and other programs.
- Negotiate and draft tribal TANF and child support agreements with interested tribes.
- Technical assistance and resource materials for tribes applying for federal funding for child support, TANF and other welfare reform programs.
- Guidance and assistance in resolving specific child support policy and tribal case issues.
- Provide key documents, resources and information on the DCS Tribal Relations Internet Site.

## **Key STRU Services for ESA Divisions and Partners:**

- Negotiate and draft tribal TANF and child support agreements, and provide assistance in negotiations of other ESA services.
- Training and technical assistance for ESA staff and partners on tribal consultation and working government-to-government with tribes.
- ESA policy development and review for its impact on tribal governments, tribal members and state tribal relationships.
- Technical assistance and coordination of ESA's DSHS Administrative Policy 7.01 (American Indian Policy) Plans and Status Reports.
- Guidance and assistance in resolving specific child support policy and tribal case issues.
- Maintain resources on the DCS Tribal Relations Internet Site and the STRU Intranet site.

